



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,717	11/30/2000	Dale W. Malik	BS00-168	1249

38823 7590 11/03/2006

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/  
BELLSOUTH I.P. CORP  
100 GALLERIA PARKWAY  
SUITE 1750  
ATLANTA, GA 30339

EXAMINER
----------

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2142

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/725,717

Applicant(s)

MALIK, DALE W.

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-21 and 23-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-21,23-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

1. Claims 1,2,4-21,23-28 are pending.

***Response to Amendment***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 9/21/06 with respect to claims 1,2,4-21,23-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2,4-7,21,23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pogrebisky et al [Pogrebisky 5,958,008].

3. As per claim 1, Pogrebisky discloses a method of providing a system for automatically checking for an incorrect e-mail address in an outgoing e-mail communication [Pogrebisky, A web site analysis program including mail message, col 8 line 47], comprising:

creating an incoming domain name list in a memory [Pogrebisky, creates a graphical site map showing all of the URLs, col 7 lines 55];

receiving an incoming email communication [Pogrebisky, incoming link, col 12 lines 12-33];

extracting a domain name from a sender's email address from the incoming email communications [Pogrebisky, filter out URLs, col 16 lines 8-26; extract link, col 20 lines 42-59];

storing the domain name in the incoming domain name list in the a memory

[Pogrebisky, automatically lists all of URLs, col 30 lines 57-67, Fig 22];

checking if a domain name of the e-mail address associated with an intended recipient of the outgoing e-mail communication is included in the incoming domain name list in the memory [Pogrebisky, check boxes for URLs and links, col 30 lines 18-31, Fig 30]; and

transmitting the outgoing email communication if the domain name is included in the incoming domain name list, (OR) otherwise generating a prompt for a user to confirm an e-mail address associated with the intended recipient of the outgoing e-mail communication [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter the URL, col 20 lines 34-41].

4. As per claim 2, Pogrebisky discloses extracting a domain name from each e-mail address provided in the outgoing e-mail communication, wherein the e-mail communication is transmitted after checking each extracted domain name in the list of domain names, [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter the URL, col 20 lines 34-41] and confirming each e-mail address for which the extracted domain name is not included in the incoming domain name list [Pogrebisky, verify or confirm external links, col 21 lines 18-24].

5. As per claim 4, Pogrebisky discloses receiving a corrected e-mail address from the user in response to the prompt; and repeating the steps of checking a corrected

Art Unit: 2142

domain name and generating a prompt if the corrected domain name is not included in the incoming domain name list, until the user either confirms that the domain name provided in the e-mail address is correct or provides a domain name that is in the list of domain names [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter or confirm the URL, col 20 lines 34-41; verify or confirm external links, col 21 lines 18-24].

6. As per claim 5, Pogrebisky discloses the outgoing e-mail communication is intercepted in an e-mail server to check the domain name in the e-mail address prior to transmission [Pogrebisky, filter bar, col 16 lines 8-26].

7. As per claim 6, Pogrebisky discloses the prompt is an e-mail message from the e-mail server to the user [Pogrebisky, prompt, col 20 lines 34-41, mail message, col 8 line 47].

8. As per claim 7, Pogrebisky discloses the prompt is a network message to the user [Pogrebisky, prompt, col 20 lines 34-41].

9. As per claims 21,23-25 contain the similar limitations as set forth in claims 1-2,4-7. Therefore claims 21,23-25 are rejected by the same rationale set forth claims 1-2,4-7.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-20 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pogrebisky et al [Pogrebisky 5,958,008] in view of Gross et al [Gross 6,782,510B1].

10. As per claim 8 Pogrebisky discloses A method of automatically checking for misspelled e-mail addresses in outgoing e-mail communications prior to transmission by an e-mail communications server, comprising:

receiving email communications incoming to the email communications server [Pogrebisky, web server, Fig 7];

creating a domain name database [Pogrebisky, web site database, col 5 line 66];

extracting domain names in senders' e-mail addresses from the e-mail communications incoming to the email communications server [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address, col 20 lines 34-41];

storing extracted domain names in the domain name database [Pogrebisky, creates a graphical site map showing all of the URLs, col 7 lines 55];

receiving outgoing e-mail communications from client computers connected to the e-mail communications server through a local network [Pogrebisky, Internet, Intranet, Fig 7];

searching the domain name database for domain names spelled similarly to the domain names in e-mail addresses associated with intended recipients of the outgoing e-mail communication routed in the outgoing e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, database search for domain or URLs, col 25 lines 30-45];

Pogrebisky also taught the server returns an error code when the URL is not found [Pogrebisky, col 22 lines 19-34, Fig 10]. However Pogrebisky does not explicitly detail

*generating an error prompt upon detecting that a domain name in an e-mail address provided in an outgoing e-mail communication is misspelled.*

Gross taught an email program [Gross, col 8 lines 45-51] with a spell-checking program which dynamically checking [Gross col 9 lines 45-50] when the message error [Gross, col 2 lines 5-22]

Therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the automatically spelling check program as taught by Gross into Pogrebisky's apparatus in order to utilize the error code, scanning and prompting process.

Doing so would improve the integrity and accuracy of email message.

11. As per claim 9, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by checking each alphanumeric character comprised in the extracted domain name with the alpha-numeric characters (i.e.: text) comprised in the domain names in the database, and detecting when there is at least one but no more

Art Unit: 2142

than a maximum number of discrepancies between a domain name in the domain name database and the extracted domain [Gross, an email program col 8 lines 45-51; a spell-checking program which dynamically checking, col 9 lines 45-50].

12. As per claim 10, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by removing an alpha-numeric character from the extracted domain name and searching the domain name database for a domain name consisting of at least each of the remaining alphanumeric characters in the extracted domain name [Gross, an email program col 8 lines 45-51; a spell-checking program which dynamically checking, col 9 lines 45-50].

13. As per claim 11, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by comparing the extracted domain name with reference domain names stored in the domain name database according to predetermined spelling grammar algorithms [Gross, an email program col 8 lines 45-51; a spell-checking program which dynamically checking, col 9 lines 45-50].

14. As per claims 12,13 Pogrebisky-Gross disclose the error prompt is an e-mail message from the e-mail server to the client computer transmitting the e-mail communication [Pogrebisky, web server, Fig 7].



Art Unit: 2142

15. As per claim 14, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose determining whether extracted domain names are already stored in the domain name database, whereby only a single copy of an extracted domain name is stored in the domain name database as inherent feature of database.

16. As per claim 15, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose storing tally information in the domain name database to tally the frequency in which domain names in the domain name database are extracted from incoming e-mail communications as inherent feature of domain list or database.

17. As per claim 16, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose deleting domain names from the domain name database that are not frequently extracted from incoming e-mail communications according to respective tally information as inherent feature of domain list or database.

18. As per claim 17, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose the tally information for each domain name in the domain name database includes the calendar date in which the domain name was most recently extracted as inherent feature of domain list or database.

19. As per claim 18 Pogrebisky-Gross disclose An e-mail server for automatically checking for misspelled e-mail addresses in outgoing e-mail communications prior to transmission by an e-mail communications server, comprising:

Art Unit: 2142

an interceptor (i.e.: filter) for extracting domain names from e-mail addresses provided in incoming and outgoing e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, filter bar, col 16 lines 8-26];

a database generator for generating a domain name database for storing domain names extracted from sender's e-mail addresses in incoming e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, database search for domain or URLs, col 25 lines 30-45]; and

a checker for searching the domain name database for domain names spelled similarly to the domain names in e-mail addresses associated with intended recipients of in the outgoing e-mail communications, wherein the e-mail server prompts the user when it detects misspelled domain names in e-mail addresses in outgoing e-mail communications [Gross, an email program col 8 lines 45-51; a spell-checking program which dynamically checking, col 9 lines 45-50].

20. As per claim 19 Pogrebisky-Gross disclose an internal network communications interface for receiving outgoing e-mail communications to be transmitted from client computers and sending incoming e-mail communications to client computers, wherein the prompt is transmitted from the internal network communications interface to the client computer requesting transmission of the corresponding outgoing e-mail communication [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter the URL, col 20 lines 34-41; verify or confirm external links, col 21 lines 18-24].

Art Unit: 2142

21. As per claim 20 Pogrebisky-Gross disclose an external network communications interface for receiving incoming e-mail communications from an external network and sending outgoing e-mail communications transmitted from client computer connected to the internal network, wherein outgoing e-mail communications are transmitted from the external network communications interface to the external network after the checker confirms e-mail address spelling in the outgoing e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter the URL, col 20 lines 34-41; verify or confirm external links, col 21 lines 18-24].

22. As per claim 26, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose an e-mail communications system stored in a client computer for automatically checking for incorrect e-mail addresses provided in outgoing e-mail communications from the client computer prior to transmission to an e-mail server, comprising:

an address extractor for extracting senders' e-mail addresses from incoming e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, filter bar, col 16 lines 8-26];

a previous sender addresses memory for storing e-mail addresses extracted from senders' e-mail addresses in incoming e-mail communications [Pogrebisky, database search for domain or URLs, col 25 lines 30-45]; and

a checker for searching the previous sender addresses memory for e-mail addresses of intended recipients of the that are provided in outgoing e-mail communications , wherein the checker generates a prompt for verification of an email address of an intended recipient upon detecting that an e-mail address of an intended

Art Unit: 2142

recipient in an outgoing e-mail communication is not present in the previous sender addresses memory [Pogrebisky, scanning URLs address. Otherwise the user is prompted to manually enter the URL, col 20 lines 34-41; verify or confirm external links, col 21 lines 18-24].

23. As per claim 27, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose the previous sender addresses memory is included in an e-mail address directory [Pogrebisky, database search for domain or URLs, col 25 lines 30-45].

24. As per claim 28, Pogrebisky-Gross disclose the e-mail address directory additionally stores user-specified e-mail addresses [Pogrebisky, database search for domain or URLs, col 25 lines 30-45].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00AM- 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Andrew Caldwell*, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Thong Vu*  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 2142**



THONG VU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100